



*Flathead Conservation District*  
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**CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

**Board members present:** Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

**Board members not in attendance:** Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Lori Curtis, Associate Supervisor; Valerie Kurth, Ginger Kauffman and Kari Musgrove, FCD staff; Angel Rosario, NRCS.

**MINUTES:** Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015, 310 Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Whitefish Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October, 15, 6:00 PM
2. Rosebud & Big Horn CD newsletter “Conservation Connection”
3. Thank-you card from Flathead Basin Commission for AIS support.
4. Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners are conducting a Riparian Restoration Tour, October 1. Contact Megan Stockfisch, 752-4242, ext. 109.
5. Notice: US Fish & Wildlife Service decided not to list the greater sage grouse as an endangered species.
6. 319 Mini-grant applications due 10/30. Contact Seth Elsen, MACD, 406-443-5711.
7. Summer 2015 issue of “Forestry Notes”
8. 9/16/15 issue of “The Montana Conservationist”
9. Granite Headwaters Watershed Group & Granite Conservation District are hosting “A Tour of the Flint Creek Watershed”, Wednesday, September 30. Contact 406-782-3682.
10. DNRC \$500 Mini Education grant applications, 223 grant applications, and District Development grant applications are due, October 15. Contact Linda Brander at 406-444-0520.
11. Lake Koocanusa Monitoring and Research Working Group stake holder meeting is scheduled for October 29, 6:30 PM at the Eureka Riverstone Family Lodge, Eureka, MT. Contact Terri Mavencamp, DEQ, 406-444-5372.
12. October issue of McCone CD newsletter “Conservation E-News”

**FINANCIAL:** The following bills were reviewed:

1. Byte Savvy \$75.00
2. CenturyLink \$249.53
3. Flathead Lakers \$300.00
4. Glacier Institute \$1725.86
5. Kalispell Public Schools \$635.84
6. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00
7. VISA \$1676.39
8. Whitefish School Dist. #44 \$1334.50

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RELEASE, WAIVER OF LIABILITY & HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT; and FLOOD**

**AWARENESS DAY FORMS:** Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to use the double sided form (Field Trip Permission Slip - side 1/Release, Waiver of Liability & Hold Harmless Agreement, Photo Release - side 2) recommended by Don McIntyre.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**TRUMBULL CREEK:** Mark Siderius updated the board regarding completing work on the Trumbull Creek project. Mark is waiting for clarification on the floodplain permit to remove additional debris at the bridge.

**BUDGET (August):** The August 2015 End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the August 2015 End of Month report as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**NRCS REPORT:** Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported

***EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)***

- Follow up visits and certifications
- Inventory visits

***WRE (Wetland Reserve Easement)***

- Annual monitoring visits

***CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)***

- New sign-up starts December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Continuous sign-up

***Other***

- Quality Assurance reviews
- River to Lake meeting
- CD signatures on 2015 approved NRCS contracts. *Discussion held. This will be added to the October business meeting agenda after Angel's report.*

**RC REPORT:** Valerie Kurth reported

***District Office***

1. I met with Dick Buchanan and John Ellis to discuss the office computers and updates. Dick ordered a new computer for me and transferred the programs and files from the old one to the new one.
2. I prepared the District's Annual Report for the Area V meeting with input from Ginger Kauffman and Kari Musgrove.
3. Equipment – I purchased some additional shelves for storage in the back room. I also worked with Ginger Kauffman to find and purchase a standing desk for her to use during FCD meetings in the conference room.

***Project planning/outreach:*** I prepared and submitted a DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program Watershed Planning Grant for the Krause Creek watershed.

***River Steward/River to Lake Initiative:***

1. Thompson River Riparian Restoration Project. The River Steward partners toured this site on 8/25/15. Plum Creek Timber Company initiated this project in 2003 in cooperation with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation. We visited with representatives from Plum Creek and Geum Environmental (the consulting company who designed and implemented the project) and discussed the effectiveness of the project in restoring native shrubs and trees along the creek.
2. River Steward meeting on 9/1/15.
3. River to Lake Initiative meeting on 9/23/15.
4. The second annual River Restoration Tour is Thursday, October 1, from 1:00 to 4:00. We will meet at the FCD office (USDA building) at 1:00 PM.

***Seedling Program:*** The Montana DNCR Nursery released its inventory for next spring and is now accepting orders. I posted all of this information on the District website and contacted our past customers to let them know. We have already received two orders for next year.

***Sourcebook Curriculum Project:*** The team from Montana State University has completed all of the draft lessons for Sourcebook Curriculum Guide (Chapters 1-8; ~60 lessons total), and they have all been reviewed by the Community of Resource Educators Watershed Education Committee (CORE WEC) partners. The partners met on 9/18/15 to discuss the progress and plans for field testing of the Guide. Lori Curtis and I are leading the partner effort to set up a teacher workshop with the team from Montana State University.

***TMDL:*** I coordinated landowner permissions for the September sampling at Ashley Creek. When the data from the summer sampling is finalized, I will send a thank-you letter to the landowners that summarizes the findings.

**AC REPORT:** Kari Musgrove reported:

**Education Grant Program:** We have received all but three of the W9 forms we requested & one final report.

**Project Learning Tree Workshop (PLT):** PLT is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. PLT teaches students how to think, not what to think, about complex environmental issues, and helps them acquire skills they need to make sound choices about the environment. Developed in 1976, PLT's 50-state network includes more than 500,000 trained educators using PLT materials that cover the total environment. Its curriculum is peer-reviewed and award-winning.

Our PLT workshop was registered with the Montana Office of Public Instruction allowing us to offer teachers 6 professional development credits. Our partnership with Women in Timber cut the cost and staff time in half.

- 9/2/15 Posters were delivered to local K-8 schools.
- 9/9/15 We announced the workshop on KOFI and KGEZ.
- 9/9/15 Event planning was conducted on-site.
- We ran two ads in the Flathead Beacon. A post about the event was created for our website. Posters and registration forms were delivered to the school superintendent's office for dispersal. The MT NW Educational Cooperative posted the event on PIR website & dispersed information about the event at their September meeting.
- 9/26/15 Workshop was held and 17 teachers attended.

**World Soil Day, Dec 5:** 2015 has been declared the International Year of Soils (IYS) by the 68th UN General Assembly. The IYS aims to be a platform for raising awareness of the importance of soils for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

A few of the objectives of the IYS are: to create full awareness of civil society and decision makers about the fundamental roles of soils for human's life; to achieve full recognition of the prominent contributions of soils to food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development; and to promote effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.

In celebration of the International Year of Soil, and the Flathead Conservation District's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Symphony of the Soil will be shown Dec 5 on World Soil Day in the Flathead High School's Auditorium. Students will prepare a locally grown treat (served prior to the screening), display soil health posters, and hold a contest to create the District's event ad for the Flathead Beacon.

**Small Landowners' Weed Workshop, March 3 & 9, 2016:** The past 150 years, both the rate of introduction and spread of noxious weeds have increased significantly. This change is due to an increase in human travel, expanding commerce through trade, and a lack of knowledge of how weeds are spread. If noxious weeds are left uncontrolled, the Montana we enjoy today will look much different for future generations.

This year our weed workshop will be sponsored by FVCC's Department of Agriculture. The lecture hall is reserved for March 3 & 9, 6:30-8:30pm. The Continuing Education Department is trying to get our event printed in their pamphlet. The Montana Department

of Agriculture, USFS, Glacier National Park, CHS, and the Weed Department have all expressed interested in participating and are available March 3 & 9.

*Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "to proceed with the Small Landowners Weed Workshop on March 3 & 9, 2016." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ronald Buentemeier stated that the last workshop was too focused on large landowners, and asked that the next workshop be more focused on weed management for owners of smaller tracts of land.*

**Montana Relator Noxious Weed Training program development:** The Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign is developing an online training for realtors. I was asked to review the training and provide feedback.

**Noxious Weed Program for schools:** At the board's request, I followed up with the Weed Department about the Flathead Conservation District helping schools manage their weeds. At this time the Weed Department is too short staffed.

**Flathead River Commission (FRC):**

- 8/25/15 I submitted the flood inundation mapping request letter which Bob Storer drafted, and compiled all the data our office will contribute to the project.
- 9/21/15 I took minutes for the River Commission's meeting.

**Sourcebook:**

- 9/18/15 I attended the Sourcebook curriculum development meeting.

**Area 5 report:** I compiled outreach and education information for the 2014/2015 report.

**Watershed Citizen Education Trunks:** Two watershed education trunks are being developed for the Flathead Valley by the Flathead Lakers and will be stored at the FCD office.

**Flathead Beacon Ads:** PLT workshop, Seedling Program

**FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT:** Dean Sirucek reported the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda included AIS program, oil trains, Flathead Lake modeling, and funding. The next meeting will be in December.

**FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD:** Dean Sirucek reported two planning meetings were held which included a number of Whitefish doughnut issues.

**MACD REPORT:** No report.

**WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD:** No report.

**FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION:** Mark Siderius reported representatives from NOAA & USGS attended the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Agenda items included flood mapping, 2015/2016 winter weather forecast, stream gages (Foy's Bend), and funding.

**HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC):** The next HBWC meeting is October 27, 6:00 PM.

**CLARK FORK TASK FORCE (CFTF):** Verdell Jackson reported five or six CFTF members will attend a meeting with John Tubbs on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Missoula.

**SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT:** Lori Curtis gave the following status report on the CORE Watershed Education Committee Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum Development project: Valerie Kurth and I worked with the MSU development team to complete all of the chapter drafts for the project. Valerie managed the review process with the members of the CORE team and held a meeting on 9/18/15 during which plans were developed for a teacher workshop led by the MSU team. Valerie and I will lead this effort and will be reviewing the grant deliverable requirements for field testing and reporting on the project so we can prepare for end of year grant reporting, invoicing, and payments to MSU. The Lakeside Room at the Flathead Lake Biological Station is booked for a Saturday, 11/21 teacher workshop.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- Possible government shutdown preparedness
- MACD Area V meeting, Wednesday, September 30, Libby

The next 310 Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Pete Woll made a motion "to adjourn." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

***Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:***

10/13/2015\_\_\_\_ Ronald Buentemeier\_\_\_\_ Chairman\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Signature) (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)